GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2893
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2007
UNKNOWN DRUGS
Surendran Shri Chengara

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government has attempted to reduce prices of 886 brands mostly unknown and hardly used, instead of regulating the prices of life saving drugs as directed by the Supreme Court;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARTLIAMENTARY AFFIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (c): As a result of Government's efforts the pharmaceutical industry has voluntarily agreed to reduce price of 886 generic formulation packs.

Keeping in view the directions of the Supreme Court in SLP No. 3668/2003 and in line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme to make available life saving and essential drugs at reasonable prices to the poor, the draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006 proposes, inter alia, that the basket for price control would be the essential medicines as contained in the National List of Essential Medicines, 2003 in addition to 74 drugs which are at present under price control under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007 and the Second meeting was held on 12-9-2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.